

Message From The Mayor

The City of Rocky Mount is committed to becoming resistant to disasters. Protection of our floodplains is one way to protect property and save lives in our city. Flood hazard areas have been identified and mapped; thus, we can more accurately determine which properties are in the floodway. The flood maps, prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, are available to anyone who wants to learn more about the flood risk for properties in the city.

Why Protect Our Floodplains?

Floodplains are areas along all rivers and streams that fill up when rainfall and storm drains collect and causes overflow of floodwaters. The City regulates our floodplains to protect our safety, to make sure buildings are built in ways that reduce damage, and to minimize environmental damage in wetlands and buffer areas.

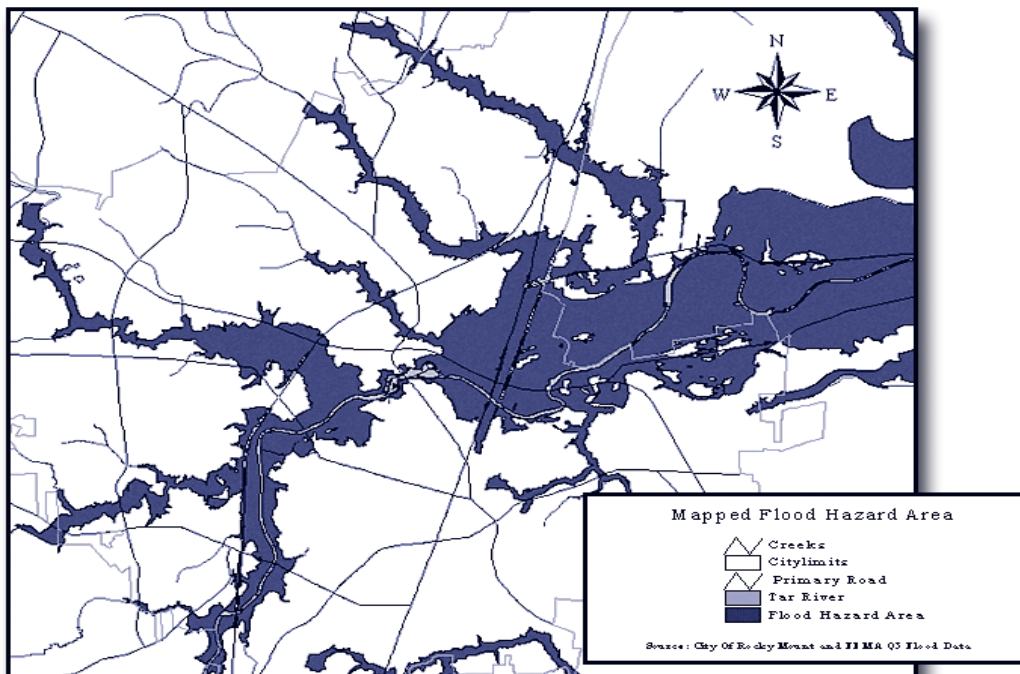
Our Flood Hazards

You can learn more about the flood risk of your property by checking the flood maps when you stop by the Public Library or the Department of Planning & Development. Everyone who wants to check into flood hazards will be helped. You may also check online at www.NCFloodmaps.com.

Flooding in 1999 showed that the low-lying areas along the Tar River and its tributaries are prone to flooding. Water depths of more than six feet covered large areas of the City and affected over 1,500 homes and other buildings. The City has many undeveloped floodplain areas in addition to those converted to open space through the FEMA floodplain buyout project.

Floodplains Make Good Open Space

Rivers and creeks naturally want to flood after long and heavy rains. That's why it makes sense to keep development away from waterways, so that the floodplain can function as nature intended. In the City, parts of Battle Park, Tom Stith Park, and Sunset Park are in the floodplain and are preserved as open space. Anyone thinking about building in a floodplain should consider locating away from the river or stream to leave the floodplain open.



Most wetlands are found in floodplains. Wetlands have many types of plants and wildlife and are valuable for water quality and habitat protection. A permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required to alter a wetland. Call the Department of Planning & Development to learn more about minimizing impacts on our floodplains.

Act Now To Protect Your Property

It is always a good idea to protect your property before the next flood. Many people do not realize that their standard insurance does not cover floods. Flood insurance is available for your property within our community. Flood Insurance usually has a thirty day waiting period before the coverage goes into effect.

Call The Department of Planning & Development to ask for a site visit to discuss flood hazards and what you can do to reduce future damage. All development in the floodplain will require a permit from the City. More information about protecting your home and family can also be found on the Internet at www.FEMA.gov/mit and a special section the Rocky Mount Public Library has several good resources.

The next time the water rises, if you have major damage and are covered by flood insurance, you may be eligible for up to an extra \$20,000 to pay for extra property protection repairs if they are required by a permit. Be sure to ask your insurance adjuster about the "Increased Cost of Compliance" coverage.

Contact Information

For NFIP Flood Insurance:
call your insurance agent.

For Building and Floodplain
Development Permits:
972-1113

To report dumping in
streams and ditches:
972-1296 or 459-4115

Did you know—

If a building is damaged more than 50% of market value, reconstruction of that building must meet current building codes.

How Can I Prepare for a Flood?

If you know a flood is coming, you can prepare by doing some basic things: Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary. Move valuables, such as papers, furs, jewelry, and clothing to upper floors or higher elevations. Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic soda bottles with clean water. Secure outdoor furniture. Assemble a disaster supplies kit.

More information can be found at www.fema.gov/nfip/coping.shtm

Disaster Supplies Kit

There are six basics you should stock for your home:

- Enough water to have for 1 gallon per person per day
- Food
- First aid supplies & medicines
- Clothing & bedding
- Tools, cleaning, & emergency supplies
- Special items like a camp stove, battery operated radio, extra batteries, and flashlights.

Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container.

Local Radio Stations

The City of Rocky Mount has established an Emergency Area Radio Network with the local radio stations listed below. The stations will be able to produce a signal in the event of an electrical power failure. Tune your battery operated radio to one of these stations to get emergency announcements:

WRSV—92.1 FM
WDWG—98.5 FM
WEED—1390 AM

WRMT—1490 AM
WZAX—99.3 FM
WPWZ—95.5 FM



**NATIONAL
FLOOD
INSURANCE
PROGRAM**

**The City of Rocky Mount participates in the
NFIP's Community Rating System so that
you pay less for your flood insurance policy.**